



2018-12-04

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA”) and to oppose the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC’s September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

I am Chair of the Covington Neighborhood Collaborative (CNC). The CNC is an umbrella organization of the 19 neighborhood associations that comprise Covington. The CNC allows the neighborhoods a collective voice in the governing of our city. For many years TBNK has been an indispensable resource informing the citizens of Northern Kentucky in general, and Covington and Kenton County in particular, of local government activities. TBNK records and broadcasts each city commission meeting reaching citizens unable to attend in person. CNC would like to especially point out that TBNK records and broadcasts the election cycle to expose candidates to the voting public. CNC would not be able to provide the voting public with candidate forums, debates and candidate profile videos without the resources of TBNK.

Our local Public, Educational, and Governmental, (PEG) Access channels provide a wide range of local programming about our community, which is a valuable service to Northern Kentucky residents, community organizations, and viewers. Our local PEG TV studio at the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky, also provides access to a professional studio, editing and field equipment for local residents, schools, and community organizations, who would not otherwise have access to such facilities, as well as much needed training and guidance.

Local PEG programming includes coverage of high school and college football and basketball games, swimming and diving and other sports, as well as many community events. The PEG channels air numerous local government meetings every month, as well as Northern Kentucky election programs and results. The channels also broadcast local music and entertainment, documentaries, and public affairs shows, as well as information about local community service organizations and agencies, and issues of interest to Northern Kentucky.

Promoting such diversity of views and information through local PEG programming was one of congress' specific stated intents of the Cable Act. The FCC's proposed FNPRM goes against this stated intent, and would force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, which would cripple and very likely eliminate the PEG channels in most communities across the country, since most cities will not be able to afford the loss in fees. The loss of franchise fees would also eliminate the main source of operational funding for PEG channels in most communities. This has never been the way the law worked for decades and was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and urge the FCC to protect PEG channels and funding in our community and others by choosing not to adopt the Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hayden, Chair

Covington Neighborhood Collaborative

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